



**State of Wisconsin**  
**Department of Public Instruction**  
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

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**Burmaster names 2005 Friends of Education at annual conference**

*Friends of Education understand the importance of partnerships for education*

MADISON—State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster presented her 2005 Friends of Education awards Thursday during her annual Fall Conference for District Administrators in Madison.

She commended the 10 friends of education for their devotion to public education. “These individuals understand that the future of our democracy and the long-term economic security and quality of life in Wisconsin depends on how we involve partnerships among schools, businesses, and communities in educating today’s students.”

Burmaster presented awards to

**Jean Buffalo-Reyes of Red Cliff**, president of the Bayfield School Board, for her outstanding record of service at the local, state, and national levels. As tribal chair for the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin she worked on inter-agency agreements to support Head Start programs. Additionally, she has served on the Wisconsin Women’s Council and as secretary of TRIAD (Team Response: Indians Against Defamation), a nonprofit organization that works to address racial profiling, stereotyping, and defamation of American Indian people. Buffalo-Reyes is active in agricultural projects in her community and the Great Lakes region, one of which provides hands-on instruction for agricultural education students in the Bayfield School District.

**Chester Grobschmidt of South Milwaukee**, for his 28 years of service as mayor in the Village of South Milwaukee, during which he showed devotion to the team effort required by the city, schools, community groups, and churches to work for the best interests of the community; for his recent work on a referendum to relocate an aging middle school and to build a new high school; and for his energy in helping establish the Heritage Hallway in the new high school as a memorial to the history of education in South Milwaukee.

**Shublong Her of Wausau**, for his contributions to the Wausau community as a home/school coordinator for the Wausau Area Hmong Mutual Association. In his work, Her promotes cultural awareness and appreciation, advocates for parents and students of Lao and Hmong ancestry, bridges language and cultural barriers, works with families of at-risk students, conducts parenting education and family involvement activities, and provides educational resources to parents and students.

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**Rev. Archie Ivy of Milwaukee**, for his 30 years of service to education, children, and families as pastor of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church and as an active member of several civic and religious groups. Ivy is a director of MICA H (Milwaukee Innercity Congregations Allied for Hope), a multi-racial interfaith organization committed to addressing issues of justice that impact the community; leader with the Milwaukee Alliance for Attendance Initiative; chair for the Partnership Council of the Milwaukee Child Welfare Bureau; co-chair of the Clergy for Educational Options; and board member of Milwaukee Birthrights, the Milwaukee Police Athletic League, and the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education. He was a principal of North Division High School for four years.

**Herbert V. Kohler Jr.**, and his daughter **Laura Kohler, both of Kohler**, for their leadership in business and community that has impacted the lives and futures of every student in the Kohler School District. Herbert V. Kohler serves as chair of the Kohler Foundation, a philanthropic organization that supports educational, cultural and preservation projects in Wisconsin. Laura Kohler is a member of the Kohler Trust for Arts and serves as executive director of the Kohler Foundation, which focuses on education and arts initiatives, including a scholarship program that awards more than 45 scholarships annually to graduating seniors from 12 area high schools. Both Kohlers support Friendship House, a group home for at-risk youth in Sheboygan.

**José A. Olivieri of Milwaukee**, for making education a priority in his practice of law as a partner at the firm Michael Best and Friedrich and as an instructor at Marquette University Law School, and for his service in the Milwaukee community. Olivieri is in his second term as board president of United Community Center, and was a leader in the development of Bruce Guadalupe Charter School in Milwaukee. He is a past member and committee chair of the Governor's Commission on Schools for the 21st Century and former member of the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents and chair of the Regents' Education Committee.

**Richard Swantz of La Crosse**, for his leadership and caring for all students, especially economically disadvantaged students, as administrator of the La Crosse School District for 21 years, and his continued service, following retirement from PK-12 education, by teaching future educators in the teacher preparation program at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and serving as director in the university's School of Education.

**Douglas Timmerman of Madison**, chairman, president, and chief operating officer for Anchor BankCorp Wisconsin Inc., for his leadership in Wisconsin's efforts to improve personal financial literacy. Timmerman served as a faculty member at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and currently serves on a number of financial and civic boards and committees, including current service on the Governor's Financial Literacy Council and work with the Madison Public Schools Foundation.

**William Wilcox of Madison**, president of CBM Credit Education Foundation Inc., for his drive to promote personal financial literacy at the state and national levels. He is a collaborating partner on the State Superintendent's Task Force on Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Personal Finance and vice-chair of the Governor's Council on Financial Literacy. Wilcox is a member of the National Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy; treasurer and a director of the Wisconsin Jump\$tart Coalition; and co-founder of the Wisconsin Institute of Financial and Economic Education.

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**NOTE:** Photographs from the Friends of Education awards ceremony are available in the state superintendent's photo gallery on the Department of Public Instruction website at < <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sprntdnt/photos/foe05/index.html> >.